

THE NEW HIV/AIDS REPORTING LAW: *What You Need to Know*

BE HIV SMART

The more you know, the safer you are

1. Which of these is true?

- a. HIV is the virus that causes the disease AIDS.
- b. There are things you can do to stop from getting HIV.
- c. You cannot tell if someone has HIV or AIDS just by looking at them.

Answer: ALL ARE TRUE!

2. True or False - I can tell if I get HIV.

Answer: FALSE! The only way to be sure if you have HIV or AIDS is to get tested.

3. True or False - Confidential testing means that anyone can find out that I have HIV.

Answer: FALSE! Confidential testing means that only you and your health care providers will know your HIV status.

4. True or False – I can only get an HIV test at a few special places.

Answer: FALSE! You can get tested at a doctor's office, hospital, health clinic, nursing home or hospice, drug rehabilitation or correctional facility.

KNOW THE LAW

This is what the change in law means

- Since 1985, if you were diagnosed with AIDS, your name has been reported to the health department.
- Doctors, laboratories and institutions do report HIV/AIDS cases.
- NOW, if you have a positive HIV test or ever had a positive test, your name will be reported to the health department the same way as other diseases such as hepatitis and syphilis.
- The law was changed so that Maryland can keep receiving federal funding for HIV and AIDS treatment and services.

KNOW YOUR HIV STATUS

You can save lives

- You can live with HIV. New treatments can keep you from getting sick for many years.
- If you are pregnant and have HIV, you can take medicines so that your baby does not get HIV.
- Talking to your partner(s) can be hard, but it can help get them the services they need.
- If you are HIV positive, a trained counselor can help you talk to your partner(s). Or they can talk to your partner(s) without using your name.

YOUR NAME AND HIV STATUS IS PROTECTED.

Your confidentiality is protected by law.

Your information will not be made public.

HIV/AIDS Reporting does help fight HIV/AIDS in Maryland.

WHERE TO GET HELP

If you have questions about HIV and your health, you can talk to your doctor or health care provider, or call or visit your local health department.

If you need help talking to your partner(s), call Partner Counseling and Referral Services at 1-800-358-9001.

Ask for the HIV PCRS Program Coordinator. This is a free, confidential service in Maryland.

If you have questions about the new HIV reporting law, call the Maryland AIDS Administration at 1-800-358-9001 or visit www.dhmf.state.md.us/AIDS/Hivreporting.



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of
Health and Mental Hygiene

This brochure has been prepared by

The Maryland AIDS Administration
500 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
www.dhmf.state.md.us/AIDS

Center for a Healthy Maryland
The Maryland State Medical Society
1211 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
www.healthymaryland.org



MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society



HIV/AIDS REPORTING

THE LAW HAS CHANGED IN MARYLAND

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW